

Pisan ships and eight thousand men. An attack on Capua, however, failed to restore him in his former capital; and Amalfi also was retained by royal garrisons. Naples and its contado were made the base of the rising; Aversa with its commanding fortress was wrested from the King's allegiance by the insurgents.

The news roused Roger from his grief. He despatched at once a fleet and army under the Admiral John and the Chancellor Guarin. On the 5th June, he himself landed at Salerno to the joy of his party. In the ducal capital the joy-bells rang; in Benevento the historian Alexander of Telese heard the joyful tramping and noise of those citizens whose hearts were for the King.¹ The King took a solemn oath of vengeance for the new rising; to two of his foes, Sergius and Rainulf, he would show no mercy as they had observed neither faith, gratitude, nor the ties of kinship. Robert of Capua, however, should he forsake these two, he was willing to restore to part of his honours; but the Prince was not to be seduced.

A close siege of Naples was begun, and Roger posted his lines between Cucullo and the Lake of Patria. But a conflict between besieged and besiegers, the last fight between the

Roman-Greeks of the city and the "barbarous Franks," caused the King to withdraw some distance.

Aversa was now held by Rainulf. On the news of the King's approach the Count abandoned it;

¹ Al. Tel., bk. Hi., ch. ix.